Message Text

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O 221854Z JUN 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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SY CHANNEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: MSG AND SY PROBLEMS - BRAZZAVILLE

REF: NAIROBI 09251

- 1. IN VIEW OF CONTENTS OF REFTEL AND REPEATED REPORTS OF RECENT DISSATISFACTION AND PROBLEMS CONCERNING MSGS, IT IS OUR OPINION THAT RSS PRESENCE IN BRAZZAVILLE WOULD SERVE WELL TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST WHILE SHOWING DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN, AND MAY PROVIDE SPALDING WITH SUPPORT IN DEALING WITH PROBLEM WHICH BEGAN PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL.
- 2. FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION: DETACHMENT IN BRAZZAVILLE WAS ORIGINALLY ASSIGNED AS A TAD CONSEC UNIT. UPON COMPLETION OF CONSEC REQUIREMENT POST ARGUED FOR CONTINUED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENCE OF DETACHMENT EVEN THOUGH QUARTERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE. IN AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT THE POST AND RSO MARINES WERE PERMITTED TO REMAIN UNDER A CONTINUING TAD FUNDED BY THE BUREAU PENDING AVAILABILITY OF A MARINE HOUSE. WHEN HOUSE IS AVAILABLE AND OCCUPIED TAD WILL END AND DETACHMENT WILL BECOME PERMANENT. HOWEVER, UNTIL HOUSE IS AVAILABLE DEPARTMENT OR MARINE CORPS COULD INSIST UPON TERMINATION OF

TAD STATUS AND WITHDRAWAL OF ASSIGNED MARINES UNTIL MATTER IS RESOLVED. CHARGE KATZEN HAS BEEN TOTALLY SUPPORTIVE OF MARINES BASED UPON ALL REPORTS RECEIVED. NCOIC WAS PREVIOUSLY UNTESTED IN LEADERSHIP BILLET BUT WAS PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN HIS POSITION DUE TO POST'S SPECIFIC REQUEST. YOUR EVALUATION OF HIS OPERATIONAL RESPONSIVENESS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. PRECEDING INFO PROVIDED SO RSS WILL KNOW CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MARINES ARE ASSIGNED TO BRAZZAVILLE.

4. ALSO SUGGEST RSO PLAN REVIEW OF EMERGENCY AND CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR KINSHASA. RSO ROBERTS AFTER DEPARTURE SARGENT RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANS TO PROVIDE PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR AMBASSADOR SHOULD DETERIORATING SITUATION DEMAND THIS COVERAGE. ALSO RSO ROBERTS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT IMMEDIATE ACTION TO IMPROVE ACCESS CONTROLS AND PERIMETER CONTROLS CHANCERY PENDING SHIPMENT OF BULLET RESISTANT LAMINATES, ETC. FROM CONUS. VANCE

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